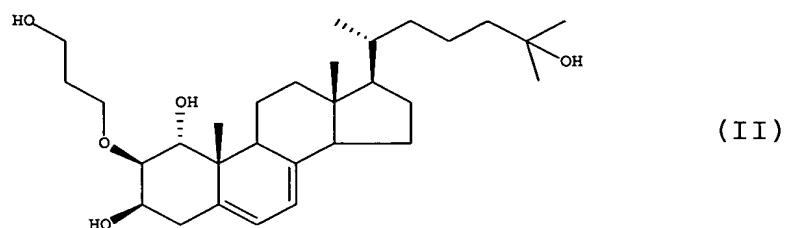


WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

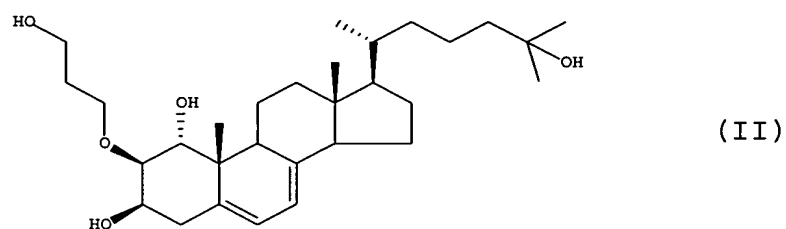
1. A method for purifying the compound represented by formula (II):



comprising recrystallizing a crude or preliminarily purified product of the compound represented by formula (II) from an alcohol.

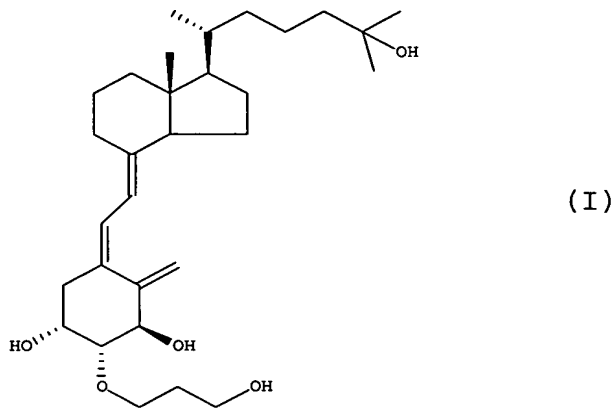
2. The method according to claim 1 wherein the alcohol is methanol.

3. A purified product of the compound represented by formula (II)

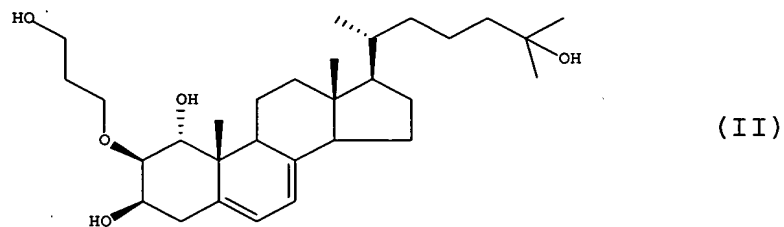


which is obtained by recrystallizing a crude or preliminarily purified product of the compound represented by formula (II) from an alcohol.

4. The method according to claim 3 wherein the alcohol is methanol.

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recrystallizing a crude or preliminarily purified product of the compound represented by formula (II)



subjecting the recrystallized compound of formula (II) to ultraviolet light radiation and then a thermal isomerization reaction to produce a vitamin D derivative represented by formula (I);

crystallizing the vitamin D derivative of formula (I) from an organic solvent.

6. The method according to claim 5 wherein the organic solvent is an aprotic organic solvent.

7. The method according to claim 6 wherein the aprotic organic solvent is ethyl acetate, acetone, acetonitrile, or mixtures thereof.

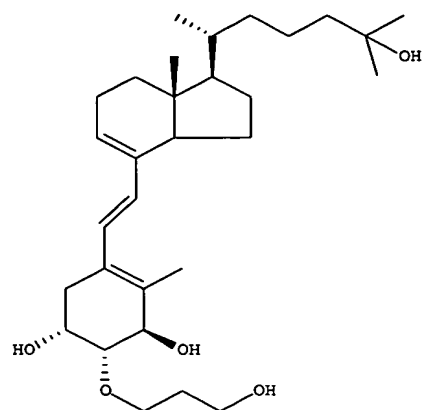
8. The method according to claim 5 wherein the alcohol is methanol.

9. The method according to claim 6 wherein the alcohol is methanol.

10. The method according to claim 7 wherein the alcohol is methanol.

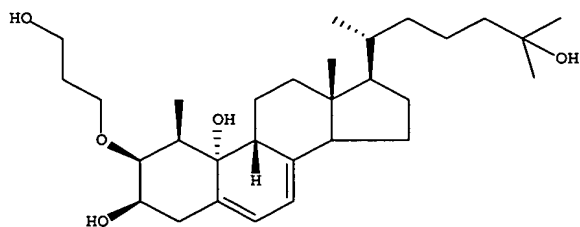
11. The method according to claim 8 wherein the alcohol is methanol.

12. A compound represented by formula (III):



(III)

13. A compound represented by formula (IV):



(IV)